

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for pointing out the formal matters that Applicant hopes the amendment to the specification cures.

As to the rejection of the claim1 on Botterman, claim 1 requires that the sand be created from glass. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines sand as a loose granular material resulting form the disintegration of rocks.

Botterman clearly teaches the use of a mineral, or a mixture of minerals, which can be crushed, pulverized and milled into a fine sand which can be used as a floor covering which can be ingested and digested by the animal that dwells in the habitat.

Botterman does not teach the use of an inert material or the use of glass as the floor covering. Glass is a chemically inert material which is unaffected by acids, some of the strongest acids in the world are housed in glass containers and bottles.

Calcium carbornate, barium carbonate, silica, and other minerals will react and dissolve when attacked by acids, calcium carbonate and barium carbonate are both used to treat acid indigestion as well as acid reflux in both humans and animals.

Botterman clearly teaches away from the use of glass sand, an inert material, as stated column 1, line 60-65 "The fine nature of calciferous sand facilitates ingestion and digestion of calciferous sand, and eventual assimilation of calcium into the body. The calciferous sand is healthy for the terrarium animal and may eliminate the animal's need for commercially available calcium supplements."

A mineral, such as calcium carbonate, will be digested by the stomach acids of the animal and will be absorbed into the blood stream. Botterman teaches the use of a floor covering that will provide nutritional value and assist in the animals intake of minerals and cease the use of a supplement.

Glass being chemically inert will not be affected by the acid in the stomach of the animal, will not be of nutritional value and will eventually be excreted in the animals feces.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, applicants submit that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claim defines the patentably over the prior art.

Therefore Applicant submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit.

Conditional Request For Constructive Assistance

Applicants have amended the specification and claims of this application so that they are proper, definite, and define the novel structure which is also unobvious. If, for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully request constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. 2173.02 and 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without further proceedings.

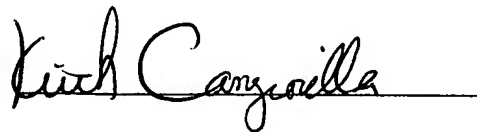
Very respectfully,

Keith Cangiarella

-----Applicant Pro Se-----

331 N. Harrington Drive
Fullerton, CA. 92831
Tel. (714)441-3442 Fax. (714)464-4112

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith Cangiarella", written over a horizontal line.